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United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475; wherein the Secretary-General was requested to continue to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). The report contains the outcome of approvals during the year, including the thirteenth and fourteenth funding cycles that took place in 2003, information on progress in each programmatic focus area and a description of UNFIP activities in advocacy and partnership-building. The present report supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/700 and Add.1, A/54/664 and Add.1-3, A/55/763 and Corr.1, A/57/133 and A/58/173).

Member States will note that a total of $73.7 million has been programmed for the year 2003. Broken down by programme area, the grants for the year were distributed as follows: children's health, $44 million for nine projects; population and women, $6.2 million for fourteen projects; environment, $18.4 million for eighteen projects; peace, security and human rights, $2.9 million for five projects; and $2.2 million for four projects outside the four thematic areas. Since the partnership between UNFIP and the United Nations Foundation was launched in 1998, $563 million had been programmed as of 31 December 2003.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–3	3
II.	Programme	4–44	3
	A. Children's health	5–12	3
	B. Population and women	13–21	5
	C. Environment	22–33	7
	D. Peace, security and human rights	34–39	10
	E. Monitoring and evaluation	40–44	11
III.	Facilitating partnerships	45–52	12
IV.	Advocacy and public affairs	53–56	13
V.	Funding rounds	57–58	14
VI.	Operational and financial arrangements	59–62	15
VII.	Conclusions	63–66	16
Annexes			
I.	Composition of the UNFIP Advisory Board		17
II.	Projects funded by the United Nations Foundation, by programme area		18

I. Introduction

1. In 2003, the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) continued its role as focal point for the partnership with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) in connection with Robert E. Turner's contribution in support of United Nations causes. In that capacity, UNFIP collaborated with the United Nations system to identify innovative, high-impact projects consistent with the programme frameworks for children's health; population and women; the environment; and peace, security and human rights. Special emphasis was placed on working with implementing partners, on the basis of guidelines issued by the United Nations Development Group, to implement joint proposals at the country level, consistent with the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. As of the end of 2003, a total of $563 million (inclusive of co-financing) had been allocated to fund 292 projects with activities in 121 countries involving 35 United Nations organizations since the inception of the UNF/UNFIP partnership in 1998. The cumulative amount of co-financing from other funding partners was $188 million, or 33 per cent of all approved grants.

2. UNFIP was also increasingly called upon to provide advice to the private sector and foundations on partnership options with the United Nations common system, as well as to facilitate networking and fund-raising possibilities in support of United Nations causes, including with bilateral and multilateral donors. In that aspect of its operations, UNFIP was guided by the Secretary-General's ongoing programme of reform and the Millennium Development Goals. It is in great part because of the UNF commitment to the United Nations system that a number of other partners are looking for ways of working with the Organization.

3. UNFIP has become a clearing house for partnership information and a facilitator of funding opportunities for the United Nations. Agencies, including specialized agencies, and UNF have often found it helpful to have UNFIP assist in building key networks, alliances and partnerships. As of the end of December 2003, UNFIP had fielded approximately 200 inquiries from a variety of entities interested in partnerships; 123 of those requests arrived in 2003 alone.

II. Programme

4. A more detailed discussion is set out below of key programmes and projects being implemented under the four programme frameworks: children's health; environment; population and women; and peace, security and human rights.

A. Children's health

5. The children's health programme focuses on select areas of United Nations goals and priorities, as set out in the Plan of Action adopted by the 1990 World Summit for Children. Its activities take a preventative approach to children's health and seek to ensure that interventions funded by UNF contribute to strengthening the public health infrastructure and capacity in developing countries.

6. The children's health portfolio is comprised of 53 projects, valued at $243 million, covering the following framework areas: polio eradication, preventing

tobacco use; decreasing child mortality through preventing HIV/AIDS, delivering micronutrients and improving and sustaining vaccine delivery; strengthening community health knowledge and practices; and projects falling outside the framework.

7. In 2003, $44 million was approved for children's health. Strengthening of the public health systems through measles control in Africa and the eradication of polio continued as funding priorities in that portfolio.

8. New funding in 2003 also responded to the need to rebuild the health system in Iraq. A planning grant to assist the International Atomic Energy Agency was made, in partnership with the United States Department of State, for the purpose of creating tsetse fly-free zones in Africa. The funds are to facilitate preparation of fund-raising documentation and to organize donor meetings.

9. A grant was made to the World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen inter-country collaboration in the areas of surveillance, epidemic preparedness and the control of communicable diseases, such as polio, measles, yellow fever, guinea worm and HIV/AIDS, in Africa and South-East Asia. An additional grant to WHO supports the integration of communicable disease initiatives at the district level in Africa, with the goal of increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the use of available health resources at the country level and coordinating partner participation.

10. Much progress was made in ongoing projects in 2003. The successful Measles Partnership of UNF, WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the American Red Cross, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies continues to grow stronger. In 2003, Governments in nine African countries conducted large-scale measles immunization campaigns in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO, the American Red Cross and bilateral partners. Approximately 46.8 million children were immunized — 98 per cent of the target population. More than 115 million children in 22 countries have been immunized at a cost of less than $1 per child since the project started in 2001. The UNF contribution to date has been $30 million in core funds and $55 million in matching funds.

11. By the end of 2003, poliomyelitis had been eliminated from all but six countries as a result of the global polio eradication initiative, the largest international public health effort to date. A tactical shift of the initiative, announced in May 2003, focused financial resources largely on the remaining polio-endemic areas. Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Egypt, for example, now account for 65 per cent of the initiative's budget. As polio eradication is achieved, the polio surveillance infrastructure is being expanded to include other priority vaccine-preventable diseases. Trained members of national staff are being phased into wider immunization activities, including measles control and integrated disease surveillance in some areas.

12. UNF support for the prevention of tobacco use, one of the earliest areas of UNF support, is coming to an end. However, ongoing projects continue to show positive results. For example, the "Channel the outrage" campaign to fight tobacco use worldwide is building the capacity of non-governmental organizations working on tobacco control, particularly in developing countries. This is supported by the provision of seed grants for relevant and effective initiatives, particularly those that support the signature, ratification and implementation of the WHO Framework

Convention on Tobacco Control at the country level. Sixteen small grants ranging from 2,000 to 8,000 dollars were made in four WHO regions in 2003.

B. Population and women

13. In 2003, a total of $6.25 million was approved for projects in the population and women portfolio, bringing the total value of the portfolio to $126 million as of 31 December 2003. At present, that portfolio is comprised of 80 projects, including eight approved in 2003. Country and global projects were implemented by UNFIP partners, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

14. Projects approved in 2003 continued to foster a supportive social environment for adolescent girls, improve the quality of reproductive health services, increase access to reproductive health information and reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS. Many of the projects involve cross-sectoral and multisectoral approaches that encompass the larger issues of poverty and social development. UNF-funded projects have remained focused on promoting collaboration among the United Nations programmes, funds and agencies, and projects continue to be monitored for a better understanding of the challenges and added value of joint implementation.

15. The population and women portfolio currently focuses on two priority areas. The first of these is to support United Nations efforts to improve the quality of sexual and reproductive health worldwide, and the second is to encourage social and economic progress for adolescent girls and women.

16. The portfolio has maintained a fundamental concentration on women and girls, as they continue to be denied equal status in a multitude of cultures, countries and political settings, as well as equal access to health care and other vital services. Under the UNF-funded initiative "Meeting the participation and development rights of adolescent girls", UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO continued to improve the lives of adolescent girls by enhancing their social and economic capacity and ability to contribute to society. Through the initiative, adolescent participation is being institutionalized and adolescent issues and rights are being mainstreamed into policy processes. Building on a 2002 UNF grant to UNICEF/Jordan to improve participation in promoting the health and development of adolescent girls, an adolescent knowledge and empowerment project, approved in 2003, expands the initiative by focusing on fostering a favourable policy environment for improving adolescent health and development, and strengthening the capacity of youth-serving public and non-governmental organizations.

17. Investing in and empowering adolescent girls is one of the most cost-effective and efficient ways to advance the development agenda. Through the UNF/UNFIP initiative "Improving social and economic opportunities for adolescent girls",

UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNICEF launched a collaborative effort to apply health and human rights frameworks to various global projects. Efforts have included providing technical capacity in health and social support services, fostering a favourable policy environment and employing research methodologies to develop programmes to create effective alternatives to early marriages. Adolescent marriages often cause girls in the developing world to be deprived of significant opportunities, including education, family and other sources of social support, and knowledge of and access to reproductive health services. The multi-agency initiative, currently in the planning stages in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and India, will focus on both improving the welfare of young girls and establishing and maintaining partnerships with various agents for the next step in the programme.

18. The UNF/UNFIP initiative "Improving the quality of sexual and reproductive health care", which was set in motion in 2001, made tremendous progress in 2003 and significantly contributed to the realization at the grass-roots level of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. "Stronger voices for reproductive health" is a project that is pioneering the effort to promote health and human rights, using a demand-centred approach to improving the quality of reproductive health services. The programme is a result of a planning grant launched in 2001, and scales up demand-centred approaches in diverse contexts in three countries, representing Africa (United Republic of Tanzania), Latin America (Peru), and Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan). The project aims to improve the quality of sexual and reproductive health care provided to communities, particularly young people and women, by empowering communities through rights-awareness campaigns and mobilization. Project participants are working with providers to improve the quality of reproductive health care and develop partnerships between communities and the health system to achieve an improved quality of reproductive health care that is responsive to the needs and perspectives of those communities. The project, led by UNFPA, is currently operating in Peru, with the support of the United Kingdom Department for International Development.

19. The UNF/UNFIP partnership has also launched a new and innovative approach for improving the quality of sexual and reproductive health care through the development of population and environment linkages models. Approved in 2003, this pioneering grant supports the design of an evidence-based United Nations multi-agency proposal for rights-based multisectoral interventions to improve reproductive health and informed choice for family planning, improved livelihoods and community-based conservation management. The project is centred on the Lacandona rain forest in Mexico and involves communities in the perimeter of the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve.

20. UNF has also continued to recognize the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS, and has therefore offered further support to initiatives in southern Africa that aim to prevent the spread of HIV among youth and mobilize stakeholders and donors around this critical issue. The southern Africa youth initiative projects have received supplemental funding to continue their work in Angola, Lesotho and Swaziland.

21. The UNF/UNFIP partnership catalysed momentum toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on empowering women and achieving gender equity, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty through an initiative in microfinance mechanisms. A one-

year partnership development grant was made to identify future sustainable funding sources and provide microfinance institutions with initial tools and products to identify, reach and support the needs of very poor clients, especially women and youth. The financial services offered to clients are linked to education programmes that increase child survival, improve reproductive health and combat HIV/AIDS.

C. Environment

22. The two principal funding priorities in the environment area are (a) biodiversity and (b) sustainable energy and climate change, each one guided by a separate programme framework. A total of $18.4 million was programmed in 2003 for 17 projects in the environment area. The overall environment portfolio is valued at $134.5 million to date, encompassing $62.5 million towards biodiversity activities, $46.5 million in support of sustainable energy and climate change efforts and $25.5 million for environment projects that fall outside the frameworks.

1. Biodiversity

23. Sustainable ecosystems and the species they support are integral to human survival. However, human activity continues to adversely affect such systems and species at an alarming rate. Continued progress was made in 2003 towards the implementation of the programme framework on biodiversity endorsed by the UNFIP Advisory Board[1] and UNF Board of Directors in the last quarter of 1999. The biodiversity strategy has two major components: (a) to assist developing countries in promoting effective action for biodiversity by targeting protected areas designated by the 1972 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and to implement key objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and (b) to promote the protection of coral reefs around the world by supporting the strategic implementation of the Framework for Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative that was adopted by 80 nations in 1995.

24. Since 2000, the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation (COMPACT) programme has piloted an innovative approach to protected area conservation around six world heritage sites in Belize, Dominica, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania. The objective of COMPACT has been to demonstrate how community-level initiatives can significantly increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation in globally significant protected areas. The initiative, which began in March 2000, is implemented under the UNDP small grants programme, with a total of $6 million in funding, including $3 million from UNF and $3 million from the Global Environment Facility.

25. The COMPACT programme addresses two key issues of protected area management. First, it recognizes the need to conserve the biodiversity of relatively large ecosystems by working at a scale that includes a range of economic activities and different forms of land use. Second, it recognizes that biodiversity conservation efforts are under increasing pressure to demonstrate how they can contribute to community development and poverty alleviation, in particular to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To date, approximately two thirds of the total project budget has been used to support 153 small grants supporting field-based activities of non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations.

26. Income-generating opportunities supported by the project have demonstrated the feasibility of alternative livelihoods in a variety of economic sectors. The COMPACT programme has also made a significant contribution to capacity-building of local non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, and in so doing has built a strong local network of community-level groups committed to the conservation and management of world heritage sites.

27. In 2003, special attention was paid to promoting biodiversity conservation in regions of armed conflict. For example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the most biodiversity-rich countries in Africa and is home to a large number of endemic species, such as the bonobo, gorillas and okapis and the last surviving white rhino population. The country harbours half of Africa's and one eighth of the world's remaining tropical rainforest. The extraordinary biodiversity of the country explains why five of its protected areas are listed as world heritage sites for their outstanding universal value.

28. A decade of armed conflict and instability have seriously impacted the conservation of the world heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and resulted in all five being placed on the world heritage in danger list. In 1999, the Democratic Republic of the Congo national park service (Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature), together with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and a group of international conservation organizations, developed an emergency programme to save the country's world heritage sites. The resulting project was approved by UNF/UNFIP in 2000 at a level of $2.9 million. The Government of Belgium has also contributed $300,000 towards the programme.

29. Over the past four years, the project has supported vital field conservation operations in the five world heritage sites, including the payment of salaries of 1,100 Democratic Republic of the Congo park rangers to enable them to continue to protect the sites against heavily armed poachers and other threats. The project also supplies basic field equipment and established law enforcement and ecological monitoring systems enabling site managers to better target and mitigate threats. The initiative has received significant attention and praise from the international conservation community for demonstrating that even in regions of instability and conflict it is possible, indeed essential, to effectively support biodiversity conservation activities. With the recently concluded political agreement between the Government and different rebel groups, several major donors, including the Global Environment Facility, USAID and the European Union, have renewed their interest in the biodiversity conservation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2. Sustainable energy and climate change

30. The overall goal of the sustainable energy and climate change programme framework is to advance human development and climate change mitigation through the promotion of sustainable, market-oriented, clean energy services and technologies. Sustainable energy was also one of the five key water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity priorities announced by the Secretary-General at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. Although there is no specific Millennium Development Goal targeting energy, poverty alleviation and sustainability goals are furthered significantly by access to clean energy sources.

31. One example of this is the project "Promoting solar hot water technology". China has a well established commercial solar thermal industry that manufactures

and sells solar hot water systems. However, poor quality and the fragmented nature of the solar industry in China frequently limit overall market penetration and long-term market growth. UNF is supporting a $1.8 million project being implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to promote solar thermal technology as a cost-effective alternative to coal combustion for the production of hot water in the residential sector of China. Project activities include the development of standards and codes for integrating solar water heaters into building design and the construction of demonstration buildings with solar water heating systems in several cities, and an aggressive policy dialogue and public awareness strategy. The project's performance to date has exceeded expectations. Private real estate developers have made considerable in-kind investments to build the demonstration buildings. Four regional governments have adopted residential building regulations to promote the integration of solar thermal systems in new construction. The project has also made substantial headway towards the development of national standards and codes for integration of solar water heating systems which, in turn, has the potential to lead to the widespread expansion of the solar water heating market in China.

32. Over the last three years, UNF/UNFIP has supported the efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and its partners to establish a model motor system optimization programme in two provinces of China (Shanghai and Jiangsu). The programme supports the efforts of Chinese counterpart institutions to establish and train a network of technical experts to assist factories in implementing motor system improvement projects. The results to date of this $1.5 million initiative include the training of more than 400 Chinese factory managers and engineers in motor system optimization methods; the completion of technical assessments of at least 25 factories to assist them to identify and undertake motor system optimization projects; and the subsequent decision of numerous factories to undertake energy-efficiency improvements as a result of plant assessments. The project has resulted in the development of a highly skilled cadre of industrial energy efficiency specialists who are able to provide motor system optimization services on a sustained basis to Chinese industry though the provincial energy conservation centres. In addition, the development of national standards for the efficient operation of motors, fans and pumps has begun and will be completed in 2004. Those activities resulted in the project being included as one of a handful of major energy-saving projects in China's tenth five-year plan (2001-2005).

33. Energy development is not simply a matter of technology; it is also a matter of money and the local legal, regulatory and business environment. Innovative financing mechanisms (to attract investment and/or lower the cost of credit to clean energy entrepreneurs), regulatory reform and advocacy are important tools for transforming markets and redirecting energy investment. UNF/UNFIP and the Energy Future Coalition are working together to identify successful sustainable energy finance and development models, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) rural energy enterprise development projects, that could be replicated widely with additional financial support.

D. Peace, security and human rights

34. In 2003, a total of $2.9 million was approved for projects related to peace, security and human rights, which brings the comprehensive value of that portfolio of 19 projects to $46 million as of 31 December 2003.

35. The majority of the approved projects in 2003 related to strengthening good governance and the rule of law as well as support for conflict prevention activities. UNDP and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat were the primary partners for those projects.

36. UNF/UNFIP continued to support projects in the field of conflict prevention, a commitment that is consistent with the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General on the need to move from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention of violent conflict. In 2003, an innovative joint initiative by UNDP and UNDPA was approved that aims to build national capacity for conflict prevention. The project will (a) assist United Nations country teams and national governmental and non-governmental organizations in developing greater competence to assist with the peaceful settlement of potentially violent disputes in selected countries (including Ghana, Guyana, Kenya and Yemen); and (b) ensure that conflict prevention is integrated into United Nations programming mechanisms on the ground.

37. In the area of good governance and the rule of law, UNF approved a project proposed by the Department of Political Affairs that seeks to strengthen democratic governance of the security sector in Latin America. Through the conduct of several pilot projects related to the promotion of cooperative security policies and confidence-building measures, support for civilian management and oversight of the armed forces and the development of national capacity in the field of security and defence, the project is designed to contribute to the development of an integrated approach to security sector reform.

38. In a second project related to good governance, UNF continued its support for an ongoing project related to promotion of the rule of law in Arab States. Project activities in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen were complemented by activities in Iraq, where information is currently being compiled on the existing legal system. Such information will be made available to the wider community of legal experts who are engaged in Iraq's post-conflict reconstruction process.

39. Also approved in 2003 was a project that seeks to strengthen the role of human rights in the developing world by engaging legal experts, academics, non-governmental organizations and universities in the South to create active human rights networks. Such networks will also serve to generate stronger working links between those actors and the United Nations. By supporting their work and enhancing the dialogue between academics and practitioners, the initiative will facilitate innovative thinking and action in the field of human rights. The project provides a further example of the continued commitment of UNF/UNFIP to strengthening the role of civil societies and non-governmental organizations in the promotion of human rights.

E. Monitoring and evaluation

40. The goal of the UNF/UNFIP monitoring and evaluation strategy is to ensure that there are mechanisms to track progress towards achieving the goals in each of the major programmes and that resources are used in a cost-effective and efficient manner. The following are the guiding principles in the endeavour:

(a) Use what is already produced to the greatest extent possible;

(b) Use United Nations entities to the greatest extent possible in monitoring and evaluation;

(c) Utilize lessons learned for future programming and to tell the United Nations story;

(d) Invest in new monitoring and evaluation efforts only where the effective use of gathered information is assured and the intended users of the information have been identified.

41. The UNF/UNFIP monitoring and evaluation strategy differentiates the following four separate activities, the first two of which constitute monitoring and the second two evaluation: (a) annual programme progress reporting; (b) periodic financial and budget reporting; (c) project-level evaluation of inputs, outputs, outcomes or impact; and (d) programme evaluation of clusters of projects and topics cutting across projects or important to the overall UNF and United Nations priorities and institutional strengthening.

42. Following work begun in 2002, UNFIP continued to move UNF/UNFIP programming frameworks further in alignment with the Millennium Development Goal targets and goals in 2003. In support of that effort, UNFIP has fostered a working relationship with the Millennium Campaign Office to ensure that United Nations partnerships support the Goals where possible. UNFIP also participates in the United Nations Evaluation Group.

43. During 2003, 53 activities were completed and final reports are being assessed, and 188 ongoing projects submitted their annual progress reports, which are being analysed. The semi-annual tracking of implementation rates was carried out based on financial reports and programme feedback to partners, and programme officers undertook field visits (jointly with implementing partners to those projects, either for lessons to be learned in terms of future grant-making and telling a successful United Nations story or for course correction purposes). In addition, 13 portfolio reviews were undertaken with major implementing partners (in these in-depth sessions, the progress of all projects was reviewed and substantive discussions were held on results to be achieved by UNF-supported investments), and ongoing virtual contact with project managers and UNFIP programme officers was maintained on the progress of projects and results.

44. The monitoring and evaluation process is an ongoing task, which aims to ensure that activities remain effective and benefit from lessons learned. The evolution of UNFIP activities has kept pace with, and supported the changes in, programmatic development and the move from a project to a programme/problem-solving approach. As a result of the more thematic approach, programmes have become more focused, using the venture capital aspect of the UNF contribution to effectively leverage resources from multiple partners.

III. Facilitating partnerships

45. Since its establishment in 1998, UNFIP activities have evolved from an almost exclusive focus on the United Nations Foundation to include acting as a facilitator of new United Nations partnerships with the private sector, foundations and civil society organizations. In addition, UNFIP has become a clearing house for partnership information and a facilitator of funding opportunities for the Organization.

46. In the early years of the partnership, UNFIP invited applications from the United Nations system for project funding. That process has also evolved as UNFIP has made a concerted effort to facilitate direct contacts between UNF and United Nations partner agencies, which has proven effective in developing a better understanding of each others' expectations, enabled the partners to focus on greater support to the most needed projects and provided more room for creative thinking. The increased direct contact has helped foster a stronger relationship between UNF and the United Nations while UNFIP continues to serve as a central mechanism to facilitate the implementation of the partnership projects.

47. The UNF/UNFIP partnership continues to strengthen its focus on innovation in alliance building so as to maximize the effect of Mr. Turner's philanthropy, with an emphasis on problem-solving. The polio eradication initiative, for instance, is the largest international public health effort to date, with over $85 million programmed since 1999. By the end of 2003, polio was eliminated from all but six countries: Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria and Pakistan. The work of the initiative's polio advocacy group, comprised of focal points from UNF, Rotary International, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, resulted in G-8 leaders renewing their commitment at their June 2003 summit, held in Evian, France, to provide the financial resources necessary to eradicate polio in Africa. In addition, at their summit held in October 2003, the Organization of Islamic Conferences agreed to provide funding for the initiative.

48. United Nations collaboration with UNF provides opportunities for innovative events addressing United Nations causes, such as the November 2003 institutional investor summit on climate risk hosted by UNF, the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies, UNEP and UNFIP. Institutional investors representing more than $1 trillion in invested capital assembled for the first time to examine the financial risks of climate change. Eight United States state and city treasurers and comptrollers and two major labour pension fund leaders issued a 10-point call to action, demanding tough new steps by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, corporate boards and Wall Street firms to increase corporate disclosure of the risks posed by climate change to investors.

49. In the last year, UNFIP established new partnerships with a number of institutions, foundations and corporations, including: Citigroup Private Bank and Citigroup Foundation, Committee to Encourage Corporate Philanthropy, Council on Foundations, Education Development Center, Europe in the World, Hewlett-Packard, Hilton Foundation, Microsoft, Network of European Foundations for Innovative Cooperation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, United States Chamber of Commerce and Vodafone.

50. In 2003, a number of United Nations bodies approached UNFIP for partnership advisory services. For example, UNFIP assisted the United Nations Interregional

Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in Turin, Italy, to secure partnerships for an extensive research project on combating terrorism. UNFIP prepared a compendium of potential donors for UNICRI and facilitated contacts with the Washington, D.C.-based Nuclear Threat Initiative, which approved a grant in late 2003 that provided UNICRI with much-needed support from a region outside Europe for its work.

51. As part of its partnership-building efforts involving the intergovernmental machinery, UNFIP has been working closely with Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Task Force. In collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNFIP has supported partnership-building with the private sector and foundations through participation in round tables and forums to encourage greater dialogue with Governments and United Nations agencies. In response to the emphasis placed upon partnership-building at the Geneva phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, UNFIP, a founding member of the ICT Task Force, worked closely to develop partnership projects with other members, including the Equal Access/ UNDP digital satellite broadcasting initiative; the Hewlett-Packard multifaceted e-inclusion initiative, the Education Development Center "E-government for all" conference and the dissemination of the results of its study entitled "Power users of technology"; and the Microsoft exploration of strategic collaboration opportunities with the United Nations system.

52. In support of promoting information and communication technology as a tool for development, UNFIP facilitated a meeting of the Caribbean diaspora community around ICT issues in 2003. Built to replicate the success of a network created in 2002 with the African diaspora ICT community, the result was the development of The Digital Diaspora Network: Caribbean, established by the ICT Task Force and UNDP, with the facilitation of UNFIP. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) permanent missions to the United Nations, the CARICOM secretariat and the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry also supported the initiative.

IV. Advocacy and public affairs

53. Working closely with the Department of Public Information, UNF and its sister organization the Better World Fund, UNFIP furthered its advocacy and public affairs efforts during 2003, focusing particularly on raising awareness of the work of the United Nations and on identifying new partners to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

54. UNFIP also contributes to the Millennium Campaign by connecting outside partners with the Millennium Campaign Office and by routinely suggesting ways that an organization can use one or more of the Goals as a framework for activities. UNFIP also works with key umbrella organizations to encourage them to a focus related to the Goals in their work. For example, in 2003 UNFIP was instrumental in the European Foundation Centre adoption of the Goals as its framework for action, with an emphasis on supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS. Increased interest from European foundations to support global issues resulted in the UNDP Administrator giving the keynote speech at the Centre's fourteenth annual general assembly and conference, held in June 2003.

55. UNFIP is increasingly becoming a service provider to the United Nations system in its facilitator role with private companies and civil society. Particularly in the last two years, there has been a significant increase in the number of enquiries for partnership assistance. Examples of such services include:

(a) Facilitating the publication of articles and speeches by both United Nations staff and outsiders on issues of importance to the United Nations: articles have appeared in such forums as the *UN Chronicle* and Agenda Publishing. UNFIP has also assisted in placement of articles outside the United Nations system by high-level United Nations staff, such as an op-ed article by the Secretary-General published at CNET News.com to enhance the awareness of United Nations work on information technology for development;

(b) Compilation of compendia for United Nations entities, such as the Economic and Social Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2003, for use when looking to form public private partnerships. Those compendia cover foundations and private-sector contacts that UNFIP considers would be strategically placed to participate in forming partnerships in the area in question;

(c) Support for policy dialogues: UNFIP sometimes sponsors partners to hold their conferences or events at the United Nations and/or supports the organization of such events, such as the November 2003 investors summit on climate risk;

(d) Engagement of partners to use information technology for development: information technology is an area where there is strong synergy between private-sector capabilities and developing country needs. An example of that is the UNFIP engagement of the private sector in 2003 to support wireless fidelity technology in developing countries by launching the "Adopt-a-hot spot" campaign, which has enabled a number of silicon valley companies to think creatively about bringing Internet access to the developing world.

56. In addition, in 2003, UNFIP continued its strong relationships with the Better World Fund, the United Nations Association of the United States of America and the World Federation of United Nations Associations in outreach efforts to the public; started a project to redesign its web site; produced new outreach material; and compiled a database of over 200 companies and foundations that have expressed interest in partnering with the United Nations. The Executive Director also spoke at a number of events, particularly within academic institutions, to promote partnering with the United Nations.

V. Funding rounds

57. The cumulative value of the 308 grants approved between 1998 and 2003 by UNF on recommendations of the UNFIP Advisory Board amounted to $570 million, of which a total of $563 million has been allocated to fund 292 projects with activities in over 121 countries, involving 35 United Nations organizations. The cumulative amount of co-financing from other funding partners amounts to $188 million or one third of the total approved grants.

58. The UNF Board of Directors approved $73.7 million during 2003, of which an amount of $16 million was approved in the thirteenth funding cycle and $33 million

in the fourteenth funding cycle; furthermore, an amount of $24.7 million was approved between Board sessions. Broken down by programme area, the grants for the year were distributed as follows: children's health, $44 million for nine projects; population and women, $6.2 million for 14 projects; environment, $18.4 million for 18 projects; peace, security and human rights, $2.9 million for five projects, and $2.2 million for four projects under strategic initiatives.

VI. Operational and financial arrangements

59. As the administrative vehicle in the United Nations to support grant-making by UNF, UNFIP has approved a total of $511 million for 267 projects and received, in 2003, a total of $59 million in cash contributions from the Foundation for funding annual project requirements, bringing the sum of funds transferred to UNFIP over five years to $424 million. Though project requirements are approved to be paid upon request, cash requirements are transferred to implementing partners only on a demonstrated need basis.

60. The partnership with UNF has enabled new fiduciary mechanisms to fund programmes. The Foundation's ability to receive and manage contributions from both public and private donors allows others, such as the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the FAO future harvest initiative, to contribute to United Nations causes and make tax-deductible donations.

61. UNFIP is committed to delivering its mission in a cost-effective manner. During 2003, a number of enhancements to UNFIP operations were introduced. On the recommendation of both internal and external auditors, UNFIP submitted its first results-based budget for 2003 to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for its annual review. The related performance report was prepared for review shortly after the end of 2003. Administrative improvements were also introduced to address increased workload or implement audit observations. For instance, to further the use of a common reporting format for all partners, standard templates were created for United Nations offices and departments for the purpose of reporting project expenditures and supporting requests for cash replenishments. That effort also resulted in the clarification of year-end information requirements, further simplifying year-end financial reporting for United Nations Secretariat offices and departments. Periodic guidance offered by UNFIP to implementing partners was enhanced by adding the latest information in UNFIP records for project income and expenditure to enable the easy reconciliation of financial data between UNFIP and its implementing partners. UNFIP and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts of the United Nations Secretariat introduced measures to process more reports from implementing partners to ensure a more complete calculation of receivables from implementing partners. Also on the recommendation of auditors, new footnotes were added to the financial statements to enhance information for the user.

62. UNFIP is exploring a results-based approach to project development and performance reporting. Consultations with implementing partners were undertaken with a view to surveying existing mechanisms and determining an effective way to introduce outcomes reporting. Further consultations are planned for 2004 to determine strategy and an implementation plan. In 2003, the UNFIP administrative

budget and performance report was developed in a results-based format and matched expected accomplishments and performance indicators with the results delivered.

VII. Conclusions

63. As the UNF/UNFIP partnership continues to evolve, greater variety and complexity of work has been assumed by both organizations. Results of the expanded roles include (a) greater cohesion between UNF and the United Nations; (b) greater public awareness of United Nations programmes and activities; (c) enhanced prospects for partnership with outside entities; and (d) increasing use of UNFIP for partnership services and information.

64. Designed as the operational arm of the Secretary-General in the partnership with the United Nations Foundation, UNFIP now also serves as a one-stop shop for partnership services for outside entities and the United Nations system. In goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals, Member States of the United Nations recognized the need to develop partnerships with non-state actors in order to achieve the Goals. Non-governmental organizations, the philanthropic community and the private sector are now widely recognized as invaluable partners in the development and implementation of strategies to achieve those and other goals of the Organization.

65. Working together with the United Nations Foundation has been a significant success story for United Nations collaboration with the outside world, and as a result of that success, greater demand and greater expectations for the further development of public-private partnerships with the United Nations system have emerged. However, in order for UNFIP to provide those services effectively, it will require a wider base of support to meet the growing demand of its twin roles.

66. Ted Turner's visionary approach now serves as a model for other partners to engage in United Nations causes. The Foundation's extrabudgetary contributions are able to be used in ways core funds cannot, opening up possibilities for innovation and creativity that the Organization alone would not be able to provide. Through UNF challenge grants, new partners have come forward to collaborate on United Nations causes. Finally, the UNF insider/outsider role also provides a unique advocacy benefit to the Organization in its ability to strengthen the understanding of potential partners and the public concerning the United Nations.

Notes

[1] The Board is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and is composed of members who serve in their personal capacity; for the list of members, see annex I.

Annex I

Composition of the UNFIP Advisory Board

Louise Frechette, Deputy Secretary-General

Lincoln C. Chen, Global Equity Initiative

Catherine Bertini, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Jose Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Marjatta Rasi, President of the Economic and Social Council (Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations)

Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations)

Mary Oakes Smith, Fellow, Information Technology for Education and Health, the World Bank

Franklin A. Thomas, TFF Study Group (former President of the Ford Foundation)

Amir A. Dossal, Executive Director, UNFIP (member, ex officio)

Annex II

Projects funded by the United Nations Foundation, by programme area

Programme area	As at 31 December 2002		Approvals in 2003		Totals		Contributed by:	
	Number of projects	Value (United States dollars)	Number of projects	Value (United States dollars)	Number of projects	Value (United States dollars)	Other donors	United Nations Foundation
Children's health	47	199 323 681	6	43 966 016	53	243 289 697	126 633 439	116 656 258
Population and women	72	119 803 790	8	6 250 000	80	126 053 790	13 296 389	112 757 401
Environment	76	116 011 421	17	18 450 000	93	134 461 421	34 874 500	99 586 921
Peace, security and human rights	41	43 131 001	5	2 860 000	46	45 991 001	12 725 000	33 266 001
Other	16	11 524 056	4	2 157 600	20	13 681 656	40 000	13 641 656
Total	**252**	**489 793 949**	**40**	**73 683 616**	**292**	**563 477 565**	**187 569 328**	**375 908 237**

United Nations A/59/171

General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Item 67 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of: (a) weapons of mass destruction and (b) conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The report also records the activities carried out by the Department of Public Information on disarmament issues

The Programme will continue to publish *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, with the addition of an archival version in CD/ROM. The web site, disarmament.un.org, has seen a dramatic increase in the number of visitors over the last two years, and the Programme will expand and improve its content and form. The Department will continue to facilitate participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and to cooperate with non-governmental organizations, especially coalitions that spearhead the participation of a large number of such organizations in the field of disarmament.

* A/59/150.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–10	3
II.	Information resources	11–38	4
	A. Publication programme	11–23	4
	B. Disarmament.un.org	24–33	7
	C. Exhibits	34–38	9
III.	Information activities	39–42	10
	A. Panel discussions	39–40	10
	B. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace	41	11
	C. Briefings	42	11
IV.	Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations	43–48	12
V.	Activities of the Department of Public Information	49–62	13
	A. Public information campaigns	49	13
	B. Radio and television	50	13
	C. Printed materials	51–52	13
	D. Civil society and non-governmental organizations	53–54	14
	E. Public affairs	55–59	14
	F. Web site	60–62	15
VI.	Conclusions	63–67	16
Annexes			
I.	Status of Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme based on the financial statement for the biennium 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2003		17
II.	Survey of users of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* conducted by the Department for Disarmament Affairs		18

I. Introduction

1. By resolution 57/90 of 22 November 2002, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Information Programme is administered by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department for Public Information, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.

2. The objectives of the Disarmament Information Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, guided by the priorities of Member States as enunciated in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.

3. Weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, continued to be of primary concern to the international community. Recent developments have heightened interest in the issue of weapons of mass destruction and their possible terrorist use. The second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in 2003 and 2004, increased demand for information not only from the Department's prime target audience, the diplomatic community, but also from international organizations and civil society organizations, as well as the press and the public.

4. Another priority area is conventional weapons, in particular: the transparency mechanism of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms; the humanitarian and development impact of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; and challenges and achievements of the process to regulate and eradicate anti-personnel landmines. The rise in global military expenditures over recent years has raised concerns, especially among the public. The issue of the relationship between disarmament and development has also attracted more attention, and in that regard the recommendations contained in the report prepared by a group of governmental experts in 2004 reappraising the issue in the current international context will be a focus of the Programme in the coming years.

5. With the growth in the importance of the Internet as a tool for mass communications, the Programme needed to devote more time and energy to the production of a web site to serve global client needs. The volume of visitors to the web site, a visitor is counted as one person regardless of the number of web pages viewed or the number of times logged in for a day, has risen exponentially over the last two years. The Programme will continue to strive to make the site more attractive, friendly and dynamic, as well as easier to access by a wide spectrum of users.

6. In accordance with paragraph 3 of resolution 57/60 of 22 November 2002, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and to submit it to the

Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. A separate report has been issued on this item (A/59/178). The 34 recommendations of the study provide a practical guide to the work of the Programme in the educational sector, which will steer its course over the next biennium.

7. In a series of resolutions adopted at its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the Department's three regional centres, in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes. The Department has worked through its regional centres by promoting dialogue, encouraging the adoption of confidence-building measures, training on small arms issues and the promotion of information components of events in their respective regions. The separate reports to the General Assembly on the three regional centres provide further confirmation on their activities.

8. The United Nations disarmament fellowship training and advisory services is the Department's largest annual training programme. In accordance with the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 57/93 of 22 November 2002, a separate report on its activities has been submitted to the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly (A/59/177).

9. In line with the standing request of the General Assembly in 1984, asking the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis, an account of the information and education activities of the Institute for the last two years are contained in separate reports transmitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Assembly (A/58/259 and A/59/168).

10. Funding for the Disarmament Information Programme is derived from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources, in particular from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status as at 31 December 2003 is contained in annex I to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Department for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the donations and support it has received. It wishes to extend particular appreciation to the following States that contributed to the Programme during the reporting period: China, the Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, Mexico, Panama, the Republic of Korea and Thailand.

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

11. *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* is the Department's flagship publication. The publication of the language versions of *The Disarmament Yearbook* has suffered delays over the years. The last version of the publication issued in all official languages of the United Nations was the 1999 edition, Volume 25. The 2000 edition, Volume 26, was issued in 2001 in all official languages except Arabic. Volume 27 was issued in English only in 2002. The 2003 English edition, Volume 28, will appear in August 2004.

12. The English version of the yearbook is issued in a print-run of 2,950 copies and distributed worldwide to United Nations libraries, as well as to its depositary

library system, United Nations information centres, in multiple copies to all permanent missions in New York and Geneva, to the offices of the regional commissions and to parliamentary libraries. It is sold in United Nations bookshops to subscribers and non-subscribers, with approximately 500 copies of each edition being sold. An additional copy is distributed to all delegations participating in the work of the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament. In addition, it is distributed to approximately 600 research institutes, organizations and individuals, mainly in the developing world.

13. By paragraph 5 (a) of resolution 57/90, the General Assembly requested the Programme to report on the results of the survey of users of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* conducted by the Department of Public Information among subscribers and by the Department for Disarmament Affairs among delegations.

14. From 22 August to 30 November 2002, the Department of Public Information conducted a survey to assist the Department for Disarmament Affairs in determining if there was sufficient customer interest in purchasing *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* on CD-ROM in both the latest and archival editions. Around 30 replies were received from academics, businesses, governments, libraries and students, from North America (65 per cent), Europe (19 per cent), Latin America (8 per cent), Africa (4 per cent) and the Middle East (4 per cent).

15. The results demonstrated general support for the current content and format of *The United Nations Yearbook* and for its continued issuance. While respondents wanted to continue to receive the print version, strong interest was expressed in archive copies of the current and previous editions of the *Yearbook* in a CD-ROM format, updated yearly. Interest was also expressed in putting the publication on the Internet. Equal importance was given to such features as full-text search, index search, navigation mechanisms and downloadable tables. The Department of Public Information suggested that the Department for Disarmament Affairs continue the print version, but consider having both CD-ROM and Internet versions, as well.

16. In 2002, the Department for Disarmament Affairs conducted its own survey among the permanent missions of the United Nations (a copy of which is contained in annex II to the present report) for any delegations that still wished to complete it.

17. As of 20 November 2003, the Department for Disarmament Affairs had received responses from 15 Member States (approximately 8 per cent of Member States), which extolled the usefulness of the publication. Satisfaction was expressed about the quality of the information contained as well as its technical presentation. The majority of respondents expressed interest in having the *Yearbook* also available online, on CD-ROM or both.

18. Though the replies to both surveys were not numerous, the Department had carried out surveys in the past in which only one or two replies had been received, and thus the quantity received this time was more indicative. As a direct result, the Department for Disarmament Affairs will be issuing a CD-ROM containing at least the three latest editions of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, which will be made available to delegations free of charge, and will be exploring the feasibility of online publication.

19. The Programme published two issues of its dark-blue covered study series, in all six languages. The series, a non-sales publication, produced in small quantities in a serial format, serves to highlight General Assembly studies undertaken by groups

of governmental experts by packaging them in an attractive form for wider dissemination and future use. Plans have been made to publish the following three studies:

- No. 29, April 2003, The issue of missiles in all its aspects (A/57/229);
- No. 30, April 2003, United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124);
- Forthcoming: the relationship between disarmament and development in the current international context, first quarter of 2005;
- Forthcoming: the issue of missiles in all its aspects, second report, first quarter of 2005;
- Forthcoming: developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, first quarter of 2006.

20. The Occasional Papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert inputs from panels and seminars sponsored by the Department at Headquarters. The publication is produced in English only, free of charge and posted on the Department's web site. The following three have been or will soon be issued:

- Occasional Paper No. 6, October 2002, "A Disarmament Agenda for the Twenty-first Century, United Nations-China Conference", Beijing, 2-4 April 2002;
- Occasional Paper No. 7, May 2003, "Disarmament in Conflict Prevention", a panel discussion organized by the Department in October 2002 to explore the concept of disarmament as an integral tool to support conflict prevention strategies;
- Occasional Paper No. 8 (forthcoming), September 2004, "The Relationship between disarmament and development", based on the presentations made at a panel discussion organized by the Department in March 2004 to assist the deliberations of the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a study on the issue.

21. The Programme also issues a quarterly short newsletter, the *Department for Disarmament Affairs Update*, aimed at the general public and available online, focusing on the topical issues with which the Department is engaged. During the reporting period, five issues were published: June/July 2002; September/October 2002; January/February 2003; September 2003; and December 2003.

22. Work continued on the audio-documentary, "Nobel Voices for Disarmament", a two-compact disk package containing interviews with living Nobel laureates who were awarded the Nobel Peace prize for their work in the field of disarmament and with individuals associated with laureates and the organizations they worked for. The CD set will be published in 2005, in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and of the founding of the United Nations.

23. The following ad hoc publications were or will be issued during the period covered by this report:

- Brochure entitled, *2003 Report of Governmental Experts: Important Highlights*, produced by the Department with the assistance of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, available on the Department's web site under the heading "United Nations Register of Conventional Arms", see publications;
- "Small Arms and Light Weapons, Selected United Nations Documents" (DPI/2353), June 2004, published by the Department and the Department of Public Information, under the aegis of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, to facilitate ongoing work on the issue;
- Publication in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, New York, containing the proceedings of a series of panel discussions held on the issue of biological weapons (forthcoming).

B. Disarmament.un.org

24. Pursuant to the recommendation made by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/90, the Department devoted more human resources to maintaining and improving both substantive content and technical delivery of its web site.

25. The overall design of the web site remains oriented to issues and not to institutional structures. The priorities of the Department determine its core content. Its front page provides up-to-date material on disarmament-related press releases, statements of the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials, information on current and upcoming events in the field of disarmament and relevant background documentation. Its substantive pages disseminate information and documentation of major disarmament-related conferences. Documentation relating to these conferences was posted in all official United Nations languages.

26. In particular, the site was an important tool for collating and circulating data and information provided by States, regional and non-governmental organizations, such as national legislation, national focal points and national reports, as agreed in the Programme of Action and requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 56/24 V of 24 December 2001, 57/72 of 22 November 2002 and 58/241 of 23 December 2003.

27. There were three innovations made to the Department's web site during the period under review:

(a) With a view to easing the search for the documentation of multilateral disarmament conferences and other meetings, including the Conference on Disarmament, review conferences and expert groups, an online, continuously updated disarmament reference library was added, containing a collection of such documentation in full text format;

(b) As recommended by the 2002 United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, an online resource on disarmament and non-proliferation education is under construction;

(c) A printer-friendly feature was added to the disarmament-related General Assembly resolutions and decisions database.

28. In relation to technical delivery, the Department for Disarmament Affairs installed a back-up web server to offer uninterrupted service to the site. The site can now handle a larger volume of visitor traffic and provide more efficient responses to web service requests.

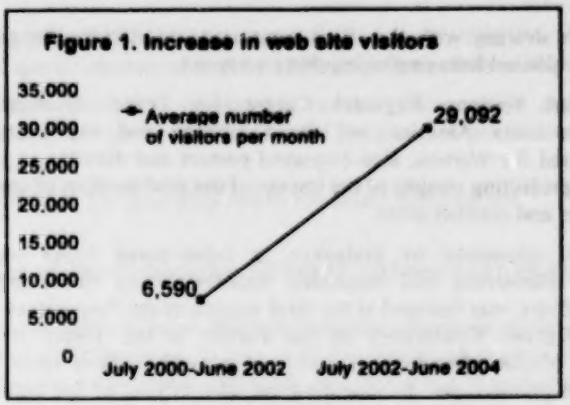
29. As foreseen in the previous report, the Department also installed a mechanism to assist it in monitoring the site. Statistics on the number of hits and visitors, favourite pages and peak hours, days or weeks are kept monthly. The most visited features are the status of multilateral disarmament-related treaties and agreements, disarmament-related General Assembly resolutions and decisions, the reporting mechanisms of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and article 7 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Mine Ban Convention) and pages related to weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

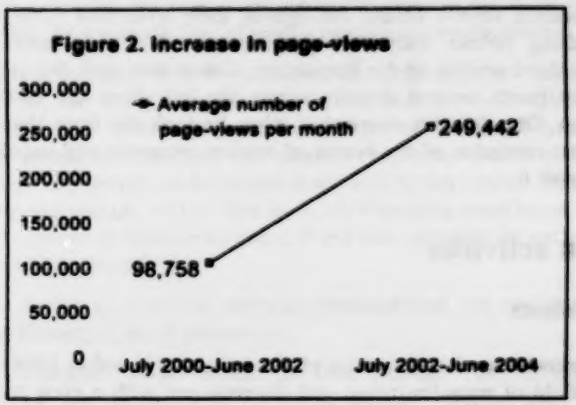
30. The statistics show that the number of visitors has increased to more than 1,000 per day, 15 per cent more than before the new server was installed. They also indicate that users hail from more than 170 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and Oceania. On average, there are approximately 29,092 visitors per month to the site (more than a four-fold increase from the last period) and a total of 249,442 pages were viewed (almost three times more than that of last period). Figure 1 and figure 2 show the increase of visitors and page-views in the reporting period. The number of visitors usually increases 15 to 20 per cent during preparations for and during the session of the General Assembly. The Department's web e-mail box received hundreds of inquiries from around the world.

31. Regular monitoring will improve the Department's understanding of the kind of information that is being sought and on the best ways to deliver it.

32. Looking ahead, the Department plans to provide full-text Internet search capability on the web site. This service will include basic and advanced search services with the spell-check function. With this feature, all the contents of web-based pages and text-based PDF files will be search-enabled.

33. In cooperation with the Department of Public Information and the Publications Board working group on Internet matters, the Department is examining ways to expand the multilingual version of its web site.





C. Exhibits

34. In the light of rising military expenditures, the Department is collaborating with the Department of Public Information to update parts of the disarmament exhibit on the public guided tour. In particular, the figures contained in the inverted cone graphically demonstrating the unequal global spending on the military as compared to economic and social causes need to be made current.

35. In conjunction with the United Nations First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, organized and displayed exhibits at United Nations Headquarters: the International Action Network on Small Arms, and Safer Africa.

36. The International Action Network on Small Arms, an umbrella organization for NGOs dealing with the issue of small arms and light weapons, included in their display an eclectic array of posters and video projections that aimed to reflect the diversity of their membership. The Safer Africa exhibit contained posters and

related materials dealing with the illicit arms trade in Africa, along with large photographs of child soldiers employing these weapons.

37. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, also displayed posters and distributed publications at large booths, projecting images of the impact of the proliferation of small arms on affected societies and conflict areas.

38. An exhibit sponsored by Hidankyo, a Japan-based NGO composed of survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, coordinated by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, was featured at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Hidankyo displayed artifacts from 1945 along with posters and photographs documenting the after-effects of the bombing of the two cities. Video projections also highlighted the stories of the survivors, many of whom have endured severe illness throughout their lives and have found their numbers dwindling further with each passing year. Many delegates and other attendees at the third session of the Preparatory Committee took the opportunity to visit the display booth located directly across the hall from the entrance to the conference room. One delegate mentioned when he took the floor that the exhibit was an important reminder of the horror of nuclear weapons and urged his fellow participants to visit it.

III. Information activities

A. Panel discussions

39. The Department continued a series of discussions initiated in 1998 on topics of interest in the field of arms limitation and disarmament with a view to broadening understanding and facilitating a meaningful discussion of the issues among Member States, academics, civil society, United Nations officials and the press. In most instances, in order to extend their outreach, the practice was continued of posting the presentations made at the symposiums on the Department's web site. The following events took place:

- 1 October 2002, Disarmament and conflict prevention
- 3 October 2002, Disarmament issues for the twenty-first century and the impact of September 11th
- 9 October 2002, Launch of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (in cooperation with the Hague appeal for peace, global campaign for peace education)
- 14 October 2002, Status of the Outer Space Treaty 35 years after its entry into force (in cooperation with the Kurtz Institute for Peacemaking)
- 15 October 2002, Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms (in cooperation with the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands)

- 20 May 2003, Multilateral disarmament after the Iraq War, 25 years since the first special session of the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament
- 9 March 2004, The relationship between disarmament and development, in conjunction with the third session of the group of governmental experts on the issue.

40. The themes for upcoming events are under development.

B. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace

41. Over the last two years, Michael Douglas, appointed by the Secretary-General as a Messenger of Peace on 30 July 1998, has continued to use his celebrity status to attract attention to the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the impact of illicit small arms proliferation, in particular to support the rule of international law and the role of the United Nations in the field. During the period under review, he has made the following important contributions:

(a) Participated in a documentary on child soldiers, filmed on location in Sierra Leone, for the Department of Public Information's *UN Works* campaign, produced by RCN Showtime, one in a series of 10 family-targeted films being nationally broadcast to inform and educate the United States population about the transcendent importance of the issues dealt with by the United Nations (April 2003). Describing the making of the film as a life-changing experience, Mr. Douglas has frequently spoken in interviews about it and has appeared on national talk shows to highlight the documentary;

(b) Acted in a public service announcement on the costs of armaments during the filming of the documentary;

(c) Narrated "Nobel Voices for Disarmament" (CD, forthcoming in 2005), organized by the Department for Disarmament Affairs with the Smithsonian Institution;

(d) Together with Jane Goodall, addressed the United States House of Representatives bipartisan task force on non-proliferation on the subject of the limits of unilateralism (Washington, D.C. October 2003);

(e) Addressed the United States Institute for Peace on the subject of child soldiers and screened the documentary filmed in Sierra Leone (Washington, D.C., October 2003);

(f) Filmed a world chronicle television segment for the Department of Public Information on the subject of nuclear non-proliferation and small arms, in addition to fulfilling his role as Messenger of Peace (May 2004).

C. Briefings

42. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information, staff members of the Department undertook approximately 34 briefing engagements per year for the benefit of: (a) student visitors in the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Association members from various countries; (c) Foreign Ministry trainees;

(d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; (e) visiting members of NGOs.

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

43. The Department carried out numerous activities that are described below. In addition, it maintained close contact on an ongoing basis with a number of major NGO coalitions, among them Reaching Critical Will, the International Action Network on Small Arms, the International Peace Bureau, Educators for Social Responsibility and Hidankyo, a coalition of Japanese NGOs representing the survivors of the atomic bomb and research institutes. In connection with the peace and disarmament education project, the Department continued to collaborate with the Hague Appeal for Peace, which comprises more than 1,000 organizations worldwide.

44. The Department cooperated with the NGO Committee on Disarmament and the Department of Public Information in facilitating a number of panel discussions in the fall of 2002 and 2003 during Disarmament Week, and in the spring of 2004 during the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty in the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Discussions covered a wide range of topics. These included issues related to missiles and nuclear weapons, biological weapons and verification and compliance.

45. The Department facilitated the participation of NGOs in major disarmament-related conferences, including the United Nations first biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on small arms and light weapons, the Open-ended Working Group on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons and the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

46. In collaboration with Member States and States parties, the Department also enabled NGOs to address delegations in all the above-mentioned conferences, at open meetings set aside for that purpose.

47. This now-regularized active participation of NGOs in disarmament-related conferences plays a key role in making Governments increasingly aware not only of the role of NGOs as advocates, but also their highly specialized expertise in certain fields.

48. The Department will continue to facilitate the participation of NGOs in disarmament-related conferences and will continue to support their activities in disseminating and advocating United Nations ideals and principles. It will also seek to further expand its collaboration with civil society in promoting arms limitation and disarmament.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

A. Public information campaigns

49. The Department of Public Information continued its efforts to help raise public awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and related issues. It carries out its programme through the use of a full range of information and telecommunications tools in all official languages, from printed press releases and background notes to radio and television and a multifaceted web site, from dissemination at Headquarters throughout the worldwide network of information centres. During the reporting period, it worked closely with the Department for Disarmament Affairs on public information strategies for the second and third meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the 2003 second biennial meeting of States to review the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted at the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the 2004 Open-Ended Working Group on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

B. Radio and television

50. The Department of Public Information continued to cover various disarmament-related topics in its daily news programmes and current affairs magazines in official and non-official languages for worldwide and regional dissemination. Some of the issues covered were: extensive coverage of the Iraq crisis and the role of the Security Council, Hans Blix, the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); IAEA and North Korea's alleged nuclear programme; the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's abandonment of its weapons of mass destruction programme and the role of the United Nations and IAEA in this respect; IAEA's contribution to combating international terrorism, such as efforts to better control radioactive sources; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention); the expert meetings of the States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Mass Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention); events and meetings on the illicit trade in small arms, and the Security Council's examination of the issue; United Nations disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts, for example, in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti and Liberia, and the related issue of arms embargoes; the continuing challenges of landmines; and transparency of military spending and disarmament.

C. Printed materials

51. The Department of Public Information produced extensive press coverage on disarmament topics in both New York and Geneva, issuing a total of 294 press releases on disarmament-related topics, 175 in English and 119 in French.

52. In addition to press materials, the Department promoted awareness of disarmament through the following regular, and ad hoc publications:

(a) The *UN Chronicle*, published in print in all six languages and disseminated in English and French online and by means of the *UN Chronicle* feature service, regularly produces articles on disarmament information, including weapons of mass destruction and small arms. In the first quarterly issue each year, it provides comprehensive coverage of the disarmament work of the First Committee of the General Assembly. During the reporting period, the magazine also featured articles on disarmament, including "Combating Biological Weapons" by Michael Crowley (Issue 2, 2002); "The Road to Iraq's Disarmament" by Liz Willmott (Issue 1, 2003); "Certainly as Dangerous as a Cigarette" by Luis Alfonso de Alba (Issue 2, 2003); "Commitment to the Global Ban on Chemical Weapons" by Rogelio Pfirter; "The Success of the Anti-Personnel Mine-Ban Convention" by Jean Lint (Issue 3, 2003);

(b) *Yearbook of the United Nations*;

(c) New editions of two booklets, *UN in Brief* (print and online) and *Image and Reality* (online only);

(d) Completely updated 2004 edition of the popular *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, containing a section covering the full range of disarmament issues and the role of the United Nations in this field;

(e) In preparation for the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Tracing Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Department produced, in cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs, a consolidated publication containing selected United Nations documents on small arms and light weapons.

D. Civil society and non-governmental organizations

53. The Department of Public Information organized its fifty-sixth annual NGO Conference, from 8 to 10 September 2003, with the participation of over 1,000 representatives of NGOs, on the theme "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations". The conference covered peace and disarmament education, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. In addition to several midday workshops, the plenary sessions included a panel devoted to the theme "Educating for a Secure Future".

54. During the reporting period, weekly NGO briefings, with regular attendance of over 220 persons, featured two specific programmes on disarmament:

- The Disarmament Agenda: Engagement, Or Urgent Call, 24 October 2002
- The Future of Disarmament and Arms Control: Civil Society's Role, 23 October 2003.

E. Public affairs

55. On 19 September 2003, in a videoconference for a student observance of the International Day of Peace, the Public Inquiries Unit included the participation of

demobilized child soldiers in Liberia and Sierra Leone and youths at other United Nations peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan and the Syrian Golan Heights, as well as a 20-year old Rwandese genocide survivor. They exchanged views about the causes and effects of war and peace with each other and with five United Nations Messengers of Peace who joined Mrs. Nane Annan. The demobilized child soldiers discussed their sense of powerlessness, power when armed with weapons and empowerment when they exchanged them for educational opportunities.

56. During the period from January 2003 until July 2004, the Group Programmes Unit organized 39 in-house briefings and one videoconference on disarmament issues.

57. The Exhibits Unit organized four exhibits related to armed conflict during 2003-2004, all of which contained disarmament-related components:

(a) The World Food Programme (WFP), through its Food for Life programme, featured photos and stories of the humanitarian plight of war victims and refugees from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Liberia, and Sierra Leone;

(b) An exhibit entitled "Aftershocks" included artwork and journals dealing with the psychological and physical consequences of armed conflict on youth in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and children in New York City who witnessed the destruction of the World Trade Center. The exhibit was reformatted into a multimedia online version developed by the United Nations Cyberschoolbus, the online education component of the Global Teaching and Learning Project;

(c) An exhibit entitled "Culture for Peace", dealt with conflict prevention and education for students;

(d) Another exhibit dealt with historical disarmament issues through recounting the life and work of Ralph Bunche, who was instrumental in formulating peace agreements in the Middle East and other conflict zones in the early years of the United Nations.

58. In addition, a special exhibit on disarmament, which is part of the tour route at United Nations Headquarters, includes displays on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as on small arms, landmines and chemical and biological weapons. This display was recently featured in a piece on IAEA on CNN's international programme "Diplomatic License". The display is viewed by almost 500,000 visitors per year, bringing its total audience to nearly 2 million since it was installed in 2000.

59. In the Guided Tours Unit during the past year there were background briefings on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization by its Preparatory Commission and on landmines by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In addition, the Department for Disarmament Affairs participated in the 2004 training of tour guides. The guides are updated on these issues as needed as part of their daily morning briefings.

F. Web site

60. The Department of Public Information is responsible for the United Nations web site, which is the framework for the web site developed by substantive departments. Its site thus supports the Department for Disarmament Affairs and UNIDIR web sites.

61. Disarmament-related issues received extensive coverage on the United Nations News Centre portal, on the Organization's web site, one of the most heavily visited areas on the entire web site. A wide range of news stories covering United Nations activities dealing with weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms were also distributed worldwide to over 25,000 e-mail subscribers to the United Nations News Service and many of those articles appeared on various external web sites, including GlobalSecurity.org, EuropaWorld.org and OneWorld.net.

62. Furthermore, the educational site Cyberschoolbus is developing an entire component devoted to disarmament issues. The Department of Public Information prominently features disarmament on its "Global Issues on the United Nations Agenda" site.

VI. Conclusion

63. During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on small arms and light weapons. Other areas of attention were international terrorism, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and other transparency and confidence-building measures and the rise in global military expenditures.

64. Surveys conducted by the Department of Public Information among its subscribers, and by the Department for Disarmament Affairs among Governments, indicate that the flagship publication of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations *Disarmament Yearbook*, should continue to be issued, and that archival copies of past and current issues in CD-ROM and on the Internet would be highly appreciated.

65. The statistics being taken by the Department on the usage of its web site, disarmament.un.org, have shown a dramatic increase in the number of visitors to the site over the last two years. The Department will continue to expand and improve the site so as to provide current and accurate information in a dynamic format available to its growing audience.

66. The Department for Disarmament Affairs, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, will continue to facilitate access of civil society organizations at important upcoming disarmament-related events and meetings and to cooperate closely with NGOs, especially those coalitions that spearhead the participation of a large number of such organizations in the field of disarmament.

67. The Department is grateful for the support it has received from Governments to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appeals for continued support for its work.

Annex I

Status of Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme based on the financial statement for the biennium 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2003

	(In United States dollars)
I. Fund balance as of 1 January 2002	**844 343**
II. Income	
1 January 2002-31 December 2003	
Voluntary contributions	398 856
Interest income	66 919
Miscellaneous/other income	34 555
Subtotal	**500 330**
III. Expenditures	
1 January 2002-31 December 2003	694 081
Programme support	90 231
Prior period adjustments	10 000
Other adjustments to reserves and fund balances	77 880
Subtotal	**872 192**
IV. Fund balance as at 31 December 2003	**472 481**

Annex II

Survey of users of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* conducted by the Department for Disarmament Affairs

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook is designed to be a concise but comprehensive reference work, targeting Member States as its primary users. The objective has been to present a yearly review of the main developments and negotiations in the field of disarmament and arms control in the multilateral framework.

In an effort to evaluate the relevance and to improve the quality and delivery of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the Department for Disarmament Affairs is conducting the current short survey. The Department is seeking to be more responsive to the information needs of its clients in line with the new orientation of the Organization towards results-based programme budgeting. Your answers to the following questions are highly appreciated. You may complete this questionnaire in print or, if you prefer, online (an electronic version was sent to all missions) to the e-mail address at the end of the form.

1. How do you find *The Disarmament Yearbook* in your work related to disarmament and arms control?

   a. [ ] Very useful

   b. [ ] Useful

   c. [ ] Somewhat useful

   d. [ ] Not useful

2. How do you rate the quality of the information contained in *The Disarmament Yearbook*?

	Very Good	Adequate	Inadequate
a. Objectivity/balance	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
b. Information accuracy	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
c. Information sufficiency	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

3. Are there other kinds of information your Government would like reported in *The Disarmament Yearbook*?

   _____

   _____

4. How do you rate the technical presentation?

	Very Good	Adequate	Inadequate
a. Format	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
b. Readability	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
c. Cross-referencing	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

5. Would your Government prefer *The Disarmament Yearbook* available online?

a. [ ] Yes b. [ ] No

6. Would your Government prefer *The Disarmament Yearbook* available on a CD-ROM?

a. [ ] Yes b. [ ] No

7. Would you like to receive past issues of *The Disarmament Yearbook* on CD-ROM?

a. [ ] Yes b. [ ] No

8. If given a choice, you/your institution would most likely choose to receive:

a. [ ] Printed edition of the Yearbook only

b. [ ] CD-ROM version

c. [ ] Online version

d. [ ] All of the above

9. Currently, each Permanent Mission to the United Nations receives two copies of the printed edition of the Yearbook gratis. Do you need more copies?

a. [ ] Yes b. [ ] No

How many? _____

10. Do you have any other suggestions to improve *The Disarmament Yearbook* in order to better meet your needs in terms of contents, format and presentation?

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